GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4096
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
CLOSURE OF NTPCs KAYAMKULAM PROJECT
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned `Kerala heading for major power crisis` appeared in `The Hindu` dated the February 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the action taken to avoid shut down of NTPC power plant at Kayamkulam due to saline water intrusion and to avoid the power crisis; and

(c) the steps taken to supply more power to Kerala?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Kayamkulam Power Plant (350 MW) of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is getting sweet water required for operation of the Units from the Achenkovil river and intake point of water is at Nalukettukavla. During the time of high salinity in the river water, the plant was run by consuming the water available in the raw water reservoir inside NTPC premises and therefore, there was no reduction in the generation of power plant. A team of Engineers from the Kerala State Irrigation Department surveyed the water bodies to identify the possible sources of saline water intrusion and it was decided to arrange for construction of temporary bunds in some of the canals leading to intake of water for the NTPC plant. The construction of bunds in the small canals has already been completed, salinity of water at the intake point has come down and NTPC has started drawing water from the river.

(c) : Besides power available from Kayamkulam Power Plant of NTPC, Kerala has a firm allocation of 521 MW in Central Generating Stations (CGS) in Southern region. It has also a firm allocation of 280 MW (14%) in Talcher STPS Stage-II (4x500 MW) of NTPC located in Orissa (Eastern Region) to be commissioned fully by 2004-05. One 500 MW unit at Talcher STPS has been commissioned and Kerala has its entitlement in the generated power. In order to augment availability of power to State, the following steps have been taken :-

i. 25% (100 MW) approx.) allocation enhanced to 35% (140 MW approx.) from unallocated quota in CGS in Southern region upto 30.4.2003.

ii. Allocation of 100 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region

iii. Capacity addition of 2140 MW is planned in Central Sector in Southern Region during 10th Plan period in which Kerala will have entitlements.